



Election workers process ballots at the Clark County Election Department, on Nov. 10, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Election nonprofit that drew GOP ire in 2020 renews grants

By HARM VENHUIZEN

Associated Press/Report for America

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A nonprofit group that became a point of controversy for distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in election grants during the 2020 presidential campaign is releasing a fresh round of money to local election offices, including in states where Republican lawmakers tried to ban the practice.

The Chicago-based Center for Tech and Civic Life has released only general details about how much money each office will receive or what it will fund.

It has said 10 county and municipal election offices will be part of the first group to receive grant money under the center's U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence, which has \$80 million to hand out over the next five years, with few restrictions.

Conservatives took aim at the center during the last presidential race after it gave local election offices around the country more than \$350 million, almost all of it donated by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Continued on Page 3

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Richard Griffin educating Aruban community about investing and the stock market



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It's all downhill for 300 skiing Santas, a Grinch and a tree



Skiers dressed in Santa Claus outfits hit the slopes for charity at the Sunday River Ski Resort, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, in Newry, Maine.

Associated Press

NEWRY, Maine (AP) — A bunch of Santa look-alikes took to the ski slopes to spread some seasonal cheer on Sunday. More than 300 jolly ol' elves — all dressed in red — dashed together down a mountain with white beards and Santa hats flapping in the breeze at the Sunday River ski resort in Maine. A skiing Grinch and a skiing Christmas tree joined the party.

It wasn't exactly a winter wonderland — there was little natural snow. The snow-making machines at Sunday River produced enough of the fluffy stuff for

the annual tradition. Santa Sunday has grown in popularity over more than two decades, raising \$7,500 this year for a local charity. □

Numbers on panel examining Va. Beach mass shooting dwindle



A makeshift memorial rests at the edge of a police cordon in front of a municipal building that was the scene of a shooting in Virginia Beach, Va., June 1, 2019.

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Several members of a state commission tasked with conducting an independent investigation of a 2019 mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, have stepped down in recent months -- raising doubts among some whether the panel can perform its job. The Virginia Beach Mass Shooting Commission began with 21 members, but 10 members have resigned, according to a spokesperson for the state office that oversees the panel. Some current and former members have expressed frustrations with the way the investigation into the shooting has been handled, The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk reported. "We have lost 10 people; I am quite upset about it," said current member David Cariens, telling the newspaper that most have left in the past six months. "I think there are people on the commission who do not want to be aggressive


in investigating," Cariens added. "The net result of their lack of enthusiasm to investigate is that it does protect the city." A city engineer fatally shot 12 people and wounded four others on May 31, 2019, at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center before he was killed by police. The commission charge in part is to recommend improvements to Virginia's laws, policies and other areas to minimize the risk for future shootings. Kate Hourin, communications director for the Office of the State Inspector General, which oversees the commission, confirmed the 10 resignations last week but declined to comment further. Washington, a former Fluvanna County sheriff and state law enforcement administrator, said he hopes the vacancies will be filled but that the commission's work will continue regardless. The group meets about once a month in Richmond. □



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Election nonprofit that drew GOP ire in 2020 renews grants

Continued from Front

Opponents termed the grants “Zuckerbucks” and claimed they were an attempt by the billionaire to tip the vote in favor of Democrats, although there was no evidence to support that.

Much of the earlier money went to election offices in urban areas that have traditionally supported Democrats, but the center pointed out that it gave funding to every office that requested it – nearly 2,500 in all. The center previously said the current round of grant funding will not include money from Zuckerberg.

The center did not initially disclose the amounts each jurisdiction would be eligible to receive, but it posted a range of figures two weeks after the initial announcement in response to questions from The Associated Press.

Grant amounts will vary based on the size of each jurisdiction, from \$50,000 for those with fewer than 5,000 registered voters to \$3 million for those with more than 1 million voters. The first offices will receive grants over a two-year period leading up to the 2024 presidential election, said Tiana Epps-Johnson, the center’s executive director. The money comes with almost no restrictions on how it can be spent. Election officials said they hope to use the grants for everything from improving websites to recruiting poll workers and building larger, more secure office spaces.

The center’s hesitancy to disclose details about its renewed efforts has drawn criticism from the same conservative groups that opposed its work in 2020.

“It seems like this entire process will occur behind the scenes with no guardrails or transparency, furthering the concerns of voters over undue influence on the conduct of elections,” said Hayden Dublois, a researcher at the conservative Foundation for Government Accountability. The center’s grants will not



People cast their ballots at Coit Arts Academy in Grand Rapids on Nov. 8, 2022.

Associated Press

fund offices in any of the more than 20 states where Republicans enacted laws since 2020 that ban private funding for elections, but it will go to offices in some states where Democratic governors vetoed bans passed by Republican-controlled legislatures. That includes Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Dublois said he was skeptical of the list of jurisdictions the center chose to support. The center declined to provide specific details about how it selected members of the alliance.

“It seems most of the targets for the alliance are geared towards blue states, with some Democratic strongholds in swing states included, as well,” he said, voicing concerns that increased funding could boost Democratic turnout. Five of the selected jurisdictions lean Republican, but they make up only a fraction of the total population in the more Democratic jurisdictions.

The initial election offices selected are: Contra Costa and Shasta counties in California; Greenwich, Connecticut; Kane and Macoupin counties in Illinois; Ottawa County, Michigan; Clark County, Nevada; Brunswick and Forsyth counties in North Carolina; and Madison, Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, a perennial political battleground where former President Donald Trump has sought to decertify the results of the 2020 presidential election, Republican lawmakers tried to work around Democratic Gov. Tony Evers’ veto power this spring by proposing an amendment to the state constitution that would ban private funding for elections. The proposal passed the Legislature but would need a second consecutive approval in 2023 before it could be put to a statewide vote.

Madison Deputy Clerk Jim Verbick said he saw joining the alliance as a way to stay current on how other election officials are operating. He said his office will consider accepting grants and wasn’t worried about the city’s involvement drawing backlash.

“The issue has gone to the courts, and the courts have repeatedly said there was nothing wrong with the grants,” he said.

Top Wisconsin Republicans said they believe the program has partisan aims.

“This is just liberals telling other liberals they are doing a good job,” said Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, the state’s top Republican. “Cities like Madison and Milwaukee continue to try to find ways to only en-

gage with and turn out certain voters.”

The center and participating election officials have stressed that the alliance’s work is nonpartisan, but the lack of publicly available details about how they selected the offices and how the money will be used has fed conservatives’ concerns.

“Our citizens should have peace of mind that the outcomes of elections are not affected by the flow of private money into election administration,” said Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Tyler August, Vos’ second in command who sponsored the proposed amendment to ban election grants.

In Michigan, more than 460 election offices accepted grants from the center in 2020. The state now has constitutional protections for private grants thanks to a voting-related ballot initiative voters passed in November.

Opponents such as Jamie Roe of Secure MI Vote criticize what they see as special interest groups trying to influence elections. The group pushed unsuccessfully for private funding to be outlawed.

“The elected officials and the clerks in Michigan need to know that they’re going to be held accountable,” Roe said. “They should be

very careful about what sort of agreements they enter into with special interests.”

Two recipients stand out: deeply Republican Shasta County in the rural, far northern part of California and Democratic-leaning Clark County in Nevada. Both have been on the front lines of election conspiracies.

Clark County, home to nearly three-quarters of registered voters in the presidential battleground state, has been the target of false claims that the 2020 presidential election was rigged to favor Democrats. County spokesperson Dan Kulin said the county’s handling of mail ballots likely contributed to its selection. It’s the only jurisdiction in the alliance with enough registered voters to be eligible for up to \$3 million in grants.

Several Republican groups in the state did not respond to phone calls and emails. Shasta County has been roiled by far-right politics since the 2020 presidential election. Election workers have been followed while delivering ballots and monitored by trail cameras outside their office, The Los Angeles Times reported. County Clerk Cathy Darling Allen said she has feared for the safety of her staff.

The Shasta County elections office received \$95,000 from the center in 2020 and now is eligible for \$1.5 million.

“The doubts about election administration that have been sown on social media particularly have been troubling and difficult to quash,” Darling Allen told the AP.

She said she hopes to present the county’s participation in the alliance early next year to the board of supervisors, where far-right candidates secured four of the five seats in November’s election.

One of the newly elected supervisors, Kevin Crye, said he had concerns about “who and how our electoral process can possibly be manipulated,” but declined to elaborate. □

Arizona Gov. Ducey stacks containers on border at term's end

By ANITA SNOW and
ROSS D. FRANKLIN

Associated Press

SAN RAFAEL VALLEY, Arizona (AP)—Work crews have

steadily erected hundreds of double-stacked shipping containers topped by razor wire along Arizona's remote eastern boundary with Mexico in a bold show of border enforcement by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey even as he prepares to leave office.

Until protesters slowed, then largely halted the work in recent days, Ducey pressed forward over the objections of the U.S. government, environmentalists and an incoming governor who has called it a poor use of resources.

Democratic Gov.-elect Katie Hobbs said last week she was "looking at all the options" and hasn't decided what to do about the containers after her Jan. 5. inauguration. She previously suggested the containers be repurposed as affordable housing, an increasingly popular option for homeless and low-income people.

"I don't know how much it will cost to remove the containers and what the cost will be," Hobbs told Phoenix PBS TV station KAET in an interview Wednesday.

Federal agencies have told Arizona the construction on U.S. land is unlawful and ordered it to halt. Ducey responded Oct. 21 by



Activists gather near and sit on newly installed shipping containers along the border creating a wall between the United States and Mexico in San Rafael Valley, Ariz., Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022.

Associated Press

suining federal officials over their objections, sending the dispute to court.

Environmental groups say the containers could imperil natural water systems and endanger species.

"A lot of damage could be done here between now and early January," said Russ McSpadden, a Southwest conservation advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity who has regularly traveled to the site since late October. Ducey insists Arizona holds sole or shared jurisdiction over the 60-foot (18.2 meter) strip the containers rest on and has a constitutional right to protect residents

from "imminent danger of criminal and humanitarian crises." The federal agencies want Ducey's complaint dismissed.

Border security was a focus of Donald Trump's presidency and remains a potent issue for Republican politicians. Hobbs' GOP rival, Kari Lake, campaigned on a promise to dispatch the National Guard to the border on her first day in office. Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, recently reelected to a third term, has pushed to keep building Trump's signature wall on the mostly private land along his state's border with Mexico and has crowd-sourced funds to help pay for it. He also has gotten attention for busing migrants to Democratic-led cities far from the southern border, including New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Ducey's move comes amid a record flow of migrants arriving at the border. U.S. border officials have stopped migrants 2.38 million times in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, up 37% from the year before. The annual total surpassed 2 million for the first time in August and is more than twice the highest level during Trump's presidency, in 2019.

Ducey's container wall effort began in late summer

in Yuma in western Arizona, a popular crossing point, with scores of asylum-seekers arriving daily and often finding ways to circumvent the new barriers. The containers filled areas left open when Trump's 450-mile (724 km) border wall was built. But remote San Rafael Valley — the latest construction site — is not typically used by migrants and was not contemplated in Trump's wall construction plan. McSpadden said he has not seen migrants or Border Patrol agents there, just hikers and backpacking cyclists.

The construction there stretches from oak forests in the Huachuca foothills southeast of Tucson and across the valley's grasslands. As of the middle of last week, cranes had transported more than 900 blue or rust-colored metal containers down a dirt road freshly scraped into the landscape, then double stacked them up to 17 feet (5.2 meters) high alongside waist-high vehicle barriers of crisscrossed steel. Workers bolted the containers together and welded sheet metal over gaps.

Still, yawning gaps remain in the new container wall, including an open space of several hundred yards (meters) on terrain far too steep to place the containers. In some low lying wash

areas there are gaps nearly three feet (1 meter) wide.

Environmental activists demonstrating at the Cochise County site in the past week largely stopped the work in recent days by standing in front of construction vehicles. One recent day, a dozen demonstrators sat atop stacked containers or in camp chairs near tents and vehicles where they sleep.

The work in Yuma cost about \$6 million and wrapped up in 11 days with 130 of the containers covering about 3,800 feet (about 1,160 meters). The Bureau of Reclamation told Arizona it violated U.S. law by building on federal land. The Cocopah Indian Tribe also complained the state did not seek permission to build on its nearby reservation.

The newer project is far larger, costing some \$95 million and using up to 3,000 containers to cover 10 miles (16 km), in Arizona's southeastern Cochise County. The U.S. Forest Service also told Arizona to halt its work in the Coronado National Forest, and recently alerted visitors to potential hazards posed by construction equipment involved in the state's "unauthorized activities." The Center for Biological Diversity has sided with the federal government's position that the construction violates U.S. law.

While Ducey's lawsuit does not address environmental concerns, groups like the center say the work in the Coronado National Forest imperils endangered or threatened species like the western yellow-billed cuckoo and the Mexican spotted owl, as well as big cats including the occasional ocelot.

The biologically diverse region of southeastern Arizona is known for its "sky islands," or isolated mountain ranges rising over 6,000 feet (1,828 meters) above "seas" of desert and grasslands. Wildlife cameras in the region regularly photograph black bears, bobcats, ring-tails, spotted skunks, white-nosed coatis and pig-like javelina. □

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Tensions run high in north Kosovo as Serbs block roads

By **SYLEJMAN KLOKOQI**
and **LLAZAR SEMINI**
Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Tensions were high in northern Kosovo on Sunday, with Serbs blocking roads as shots and explosions rang out and the Serbian president warned that Serbian troops are ready to defend their "homeland" if peace doesn't prevail.

The roads in Serbia's former province of Kosovo, which proclaimed independence in 2008, were blocked with heavy vehicles and trucks a day after Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said he would ask the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo to permit the deployment of 1,000 Serb troops in the Serb-populated north of Kosovo, saying they are being harassed there.

The roadblocks, which Serbs say were erected to protest the recent arrest of a former Kosovo Serb police officer, came despite the postponement of the Dec. 18 municipal election opposed by Kosovo Serbs. "Kosovo reduced tensions by postponing local elections," said German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Sunday.

"Recent rhetoric from Serbia did the opposite. Suggesting sending Serbian forces to Kosovo is com-

pletely unacceptable. So are the latest attacks on EULEX," she said.

Vucic said Sunday after a meeting of Serbia's top security body that he will do everything to preserve peace, but that the army is ready to protect the minority Serbs in Kosovo.

"We have taken certain measures to protect our homeland," Vucic told Serbia's state RTS television. "I have issued orders and the National Security Council has accepted them. I am very proud of our soldiers and policemen. Before they receive orders ... we will try for a million times to preserve peace," he said.

Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti accused Belgrade of trying to destabilize Kosovo. He said Serbia also is trying to bring an end to the EU-mediated dialogue on normalizing bilateral ties and take it to the United Nations Security Council, where Belgrade hopes to get support from Russia and China. Kurti called on Kosovo's Serbs "to distance themselves from the criminal groups and Vucic's regime that is funding them and looking for a war."

The European Union rule of law mission, known as EULEX, reported that a stun grenade was thrown at an EULEX reconnaissance patrol overnight.



Local Serbs block the road near the village of Rudare, north of Serb-dominated part of ethnically divided town of Mitrovica, Kosovo, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

There were no injuries or damage.

EULEX, which has some 134 Polish, Italian and Lithuanian police officers deployed in the north, called on "those responsible to refrain from more provocative actions" and said it urged the Kosovo institutions "to bring the perpetrators to justice."

European Union's high representative, Josep Borrell, said the EU "will not tolerate attacks on EULEX or use of violent, criminal acts in the north."

"Barricades must be removed immediately by groups of Kosovo Serbs," he said on Twitter.

"Calm must be restored ... all actors must avoid escalation."

Unidentified masked men

were seen on the Serb barricades that blocked main roads leading to the border with Serbia, as Kosovo authorities closed two border crossings to all traffic and pedestrians.

An increased presence of Kosovar Albanian police in areas with a mixed population, as well as more international police and soldiers, were seen in the north on Sunday.

Serbia and Kosovo have intensified their war of words in recent days.

Vucic said Saturday that he would formally request permission from the NATO-led KFOR mission in Kosovo to deploy Serbian troops in northern Kosovo, while conceding that the request probably wouldn't be granted. □

Gaza authorities discover over 60 Roman era graves

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas authorities in Gaza on Sunday announced the discovery of over 60 tombs in an ancient burial site dating back to the Roman era.

Work crews have been excavating the site since it was discovered last January during preparations for an Egyptian-funded housing project.

Hiyam al-Bitar, a researcher from the Hamas-run Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism, said a total of 63 graves have been identified and that a set of bones and artifacts from one tomb was dated back to the second century. She said the ministry is working with



A member of a Palestinian excavation team works in a newly discovered Roman era cemetery in the Gaza Strip, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

a team of French experts to learn more about the site. On Sunday, workers sifted through the soil and removed piles of dirt in

wheelbarrows.

Although the ancient cemetery is now blocked off from the public, construction on the housing project

has continued and the site is surrounded by apartment buildings. Local media reported looting when the site was first discovered, with people using donkey-drawn carts to haul away items like a covered casket and inscribed bricks.

Gaza, a coastal enclave home to more than 2 million people, is known for its rich history stemming from its location on ancient trade routes between Egypt and the Levant. But Israeli occupation, a blockade, conflicts and rapid urban growth in the crowded, narrow territory are among the reasons most of Gaza's archaeological treasures have not been protected. □

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Philippines protesters decry alleged injustices under Marcos

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Hundreds of people marched in the Philippine capital on Saturday protesting what they said was a rising number of extrajudicial killings and other injustices under the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The protesters, led by a Philippines-based rights group, gathered at a public square in Manila before marching toward the presidential palace to demand justice for victims. Police estimated around 800 protesters took part in the rally, which coincided with International Human Rights Day. Cristina Palabay of the rights group Karapatan said under the Marcos administration's counterinsurgency campaign, the group has documented at least 17 cases of extrajudicial killings in addition to four other incidents of violence where victims survived.

The number of political prisoners continues to rise, with 828 detained as of Nov. 30, Palabay said, noting that at least 25 of them were arrested after Marcos took office in June.

"Despite these sordid figures there has been zero justice for the victims of extrajudicial killings," Palabay said in a statement. "The culture of impunity continues to rear its ugly head."

Organizers said protesters



A protester kicks an effigy of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during a rally as they commemorate International Human Rights Day, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, in Manila, Philippines.
Associated Press

Signs and pictures of those killed, including journalist Brent Renaud, are displayed on a fence during a protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Lafayette Park near the White House, Sunday, March 13, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press
The dictator was ousted in an army-backed "People Power" revolt in 1986 and died three years later in exile in the U.S. without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he, his family and other associates amassed an esti-

war on drugs is under investigation by the International Criminal Court after leaving thousands dead.

Press
The dictator was ousted in an army-backed "People Power" revolt in 1986 and died three years later in exile in the U.S. without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he, his family and other associates amassed an esti-

mated \$5 billion to \$10 billion while he was in power. "We come together as families of victims from different regimes and presidents ... We have made it a point that every International Human Rights Day we call for justice, and commit to not allow the same violations to happen to others," said Evangeline Hernandez, chairperson of a human rights victims group. Karapatan said the current administration is also increasing the use of anti-terror laws to suppress dissent and curtailing freedom of

expression and association. The U.N. Human Rights Council has urged the Marcos administration to address the killings and other rights abuses.

The government has said it is committed to protecting human rights, citing reforms in the country's judicial system.

Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla, in a speech last month in Geneva before the Human Rights Council, dismissed allegations that there is a culture of impunity in the Philippines. He said the government will not tolerate the denial of justice or the violation of rights.

Also coinciding with International Human Rights Day, journalist Maria Ressa, one of the winners of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, launched in Manila her memoir "How to Stand Up to a Dictator: The Fight for Our Future."

"It is a time when we are seeing our rights eroded globally, where you are seeing a shift away from democracy to ... fascism and it's time for us to hold the line so this is what we did today," she told The Associated Press.

The co-founder of local news website Rappler faces a string of criminal charges filed by Duterte's administration and his allies that are related to



Signs and pictures of those killed, including journalist Brent Renaud, are displayed on a fence during a protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Lafayette Park near the White House, Sunday, March 13, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Russia's war in Ukraine, chaos in Haiti and rising violence by criminal groups in Mexico contributed to a sharp spike in the number of journal-

ists killed doing their work in 2022, according to a new report released Friday. The International Federation of Journalists says that 67 journalists and media

67 journalists, media workers killed on the job this year

staff have been killed around the world so far this year, up from 47 last year. The Brussels-based group also tallied 375 journalists currently imprisoned for their work, with the highest figures in China including Hong Kong, in Myanmar and in Turkey. Last year's report listed 365 journalists behind bars.

With the number of media workers killed on the rise, the IFJ and other media rights groups have called on governments to take more concrete action to protect journalists and free journalism.

"The failure to act will only embolden those who seek to suppress the free flow of information and undermine the ability of people to hold their leaders to account, including in ensuring that those with power and influence do not stand in the way of open and inclusive societies," IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said in a statement.

More media workers were killed covering the war in Ukraine — 12 in total — than in any other country this year, according to the IFJ. Most were Ukrainian but also included those of

other nationalities such as American documentary filmmaker Brent Renaud. Many deaths occurred in the first chaotic weeks of the war, though threats to journalists continue as the fighting drags on.

The IFJ said "the rule by terror of criminal organizations in Mexico, and the breakdown of law and order in Haiti, have also contributed to the surge in killings." 2022 has been one of the deadliest ever for journalists in Mexico, which is now considered the most dangerous country for reporters outside a war zone. □

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NOORD — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

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Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

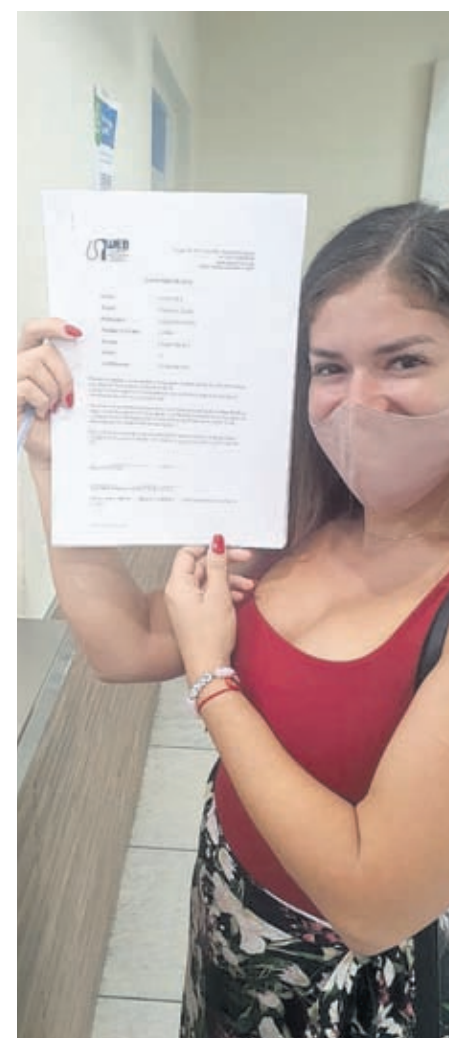
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Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

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HOH and IMSAN sign a cooperation agreement

On December 8, 2022, the Minister of Health, Hora-
cio Oduber Hospital, Im-
San and the AZV signed an
MOU.

The Minister of Tourism and
Health, Mr. Dangui Odu-
ber, stated that this was a
historic moment, as it is the
first time the HOH and Im-
San will work so closely to-
gether.

Concerning the AZV, we
should be proud to have
such health insurance, as
Aruba is one of the few in
the world with such com-
prehensive medical cover-
age. Many large and de-
veloped countries do not
have general health insur-
ance like the AZV.

The minister also ex-
pressed concern about
public health challenges,
as Aruba does not have
the healthiest commu-
nity. There are too many
people with chronic dis-
eases, double aging, and



the imposed AZV cut in the
Country package (Land-
spakket). In January 2021,
they hired professor Joep
Hubben and Professor Pi-
eter Batenburg to investi-
gate the efficiency, effec-
tiveness, and financing of
healthcare in Aruba.

The MOU helps improve
health care and the quality
of care in Aruba but is also
consistent with the Land
Package. With this agree-
ment, the HOH and ImSan
will work more efficiently

while improving the level of
care and keeping limited
AZV resources sustainable.
Minister Dangui Oduber,
Chairman of the Board,
Drs. Jacco Vroegop, Direc-
tor ImSan Drs. Joel Rajnherc
and AZV Director Ir. Edwin
Jacobs signed the MOU.

The minister is pleased with
the professionalism and
quality of care of the HOH
and ImSan, and the MOU
will improve it even more.
In January 2021, they es-
tablished a national health-



care committee to come
up with recommendations
on how to meet the 60
million florins cut in health-
care. They created a road-
map on how and where to
reform to ensure the sus-
tainability of the AZV.

This MOU will ensure better
cooperation between the
two medical institutions,
the specialists of both in-
stitutions, and the patients

being treated for diabetes
and undergoing dialysis.
The two entities will jointly
purchase drugs, systems,
and equipment and im-
prove cooperation be-
tween their IT systems.

Minister Oduber is grateful
to Mr. Vroegop, Mr. Rajn-
herc, and Mr. Jacobs for
their impressive efforts to
achieve the MOU in the in-
terest of public health. □

The first "Finance at home" workshop successful

On December 5, 2022,
a group of participants
of the first "My Finances
at Home" workshop re-
ceived their certificates.

In Aruba, 3 out of 10
households spend more
per month than what
they earn, according to
a Central Bank of Aruba
study. It is a worrisome
trend because it indi-
cates that these families
struggle monthly with their
financial responsibilities,
such as rent, food, and
loans. As a consumer, it
is essential to know the
impact of every financial
decision made on avail-
able resources and the
household.

"My Finance at Home"
teaches finance and is of-
fered free to the commu-
nity by the Ministry of Eco-
nomic Affairs, Communi-
cations and Sustainable
Development in partner-
ship with Fundacion Plan
di Bida.

The first workshop took
place in Paradera and
consisted of 4 sessions on
the following topics:

Session 1: I am effectively
at home. How can I save
and buy without emotions
Session 2: I pay my debts.
What happens when I
can no longer pay off my
debts;
Session 3: I invest in the
future. Our future and
our children's future are

important as how to
achieve our goals;
Session 4: My budget.
What are luxury and pri-
ority, and how to budget
based on your income
and achieve your goals.
The next workshop will be
held in San Nicolas in 2023
and is also free.

Minister of Economic Af-
fairs, Communications and Sustainable Devel-
opment, Geoffrey Wever
invites anyone interested
in this workshop to apply
as capacity is limited. For
further information, con-
tact Fundacion Plan di
Bida at 5688848 via email
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Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is



situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of

this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of



the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts

of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Richard Griffin educating Aruban community about investing and the stock market

ORANJESTAD – Last week, Richard Griffin, financial advisor and CEO of Rickstar Financial gave a few seminars for the local community to learn about investing, the stock market, and different ways to build wealth in Aruba.

The free seminars, hosted by realtor Vicky Wesseling from Vickstar Realty, were intended to empower the local community with the knowledge they need to not be left out of opportunities in the financial market. Richard Griffin is the president and CEO of Rickstar Financial, a stock trading and wealth planning company based in Michigan, USA. Rickstar Financial LLC has a variety of clients, ranging from the beginning investor to celebrities and professional sports stars. The idea behind the seminars was to teach the local community on how to find an alternative to bank savings and real estate as the only way to legally and successfully grow their money.

"Ever since Covid, Richard has been talking about starting a Rickstar Financial branch here in Aruba," Wesseling told our reporter. "Because I'm from the real estate side, he can also see the story of how difficult it is for locals. At this moment, when you have a really

good job, with a nice income, you still cannot get a mortgage. Or the mortgage is super low, and with that little bit of money, with the market this high, you just cannot buy a home. So where do starters go?" she explained.

Wesseling says that the way Aruba used to be, back in the day, people lived with their parents to save money, got your plot of land from the government, and then slowly started building their house.

"By the time you finish, you finally say bye to your mom and dad, and you move into your own house. But that's not happening anymore," she says. To start, land is becoming scarce. Initially, Arubans could apply to get a plot of land from the government on which to build their house, and a mortgage from FCCA – Houses for the Aruban Community foundation. However, as the population continues to grow and more land is also dedicated to commercial development and a small portion to nature conservation, this is no longer an option for most of the next generations. "And prices have just been going up so high, even on long-lease land, the market value makes it impossible for locals to buy."

This, combined with the heavy hit from the Covid pandemic, made Wesseling and Griffin realize that Arubans need another way of creating personal wealth for individuals. Wesseling says that Griffin started researching reasons why there are no other financial advisors that can manage accounts for locals to invest in the stock market from Aruba itself. And here they realize that the local community lacks the necessary information to know how to create and managing their wealth. "You don't know what you don't know", she says. The lack of access to the stock market means that Arubans need to find ways to cope with inflation and lower salaries after Covid. "I have friends who are teachers and still are not receiving their full salary from before the pandemic", Wesseling says. "They had to find a second job." This also puts pressure on retirement plans for Arubans, leaving them with little options. "First thing you need is to invest in real estate, but to do that, you need cash or a mortgage."

Griffin first came to Aruba as a sponsor for the Soul Beach Music Festival. "It was six years ago, and I fell in love. I fell in love with an Aruban woman, we bought a home, we have a family and we're here now," he said. "So I love the island, I'm part of the community. I even got the Aruban haircut!" he joked.

Our reporter asked when and how he noticed that there was a need in Aruba for this kind of financial literacy. "People started wondering what I did. They got word of what I do." He said that he brings his celebrity clients to Aruba for a fun-filled trip, and this made the locals realize that he helps them with investment advice, and were asking if he could do the same for them. So he had the idea to open an office here.

"We've opened an office before. We have different



regulations and hurdles we have to go over, but all in all, it's still the same", Griffin says. "You have to be clean-cut, you have to play by the rules, and the powers that be have to understand why and how."

He said he decided to do the seminars to start helping people so they become more aware on how to create their own wealth. "That's the real reason we do it. We don't charge, they're free, we pay for the venue, we pay for the food. But we're doing this to teach people the basics of investing. Before they even begin to invest, we want to teach them, want to get them aware of what's out there."

He added: "And I think that's the right way to do it, instead of opening an office, have people come in, and make a mistake with

their hard-earned money."

Griffin explained that the Central Bank of Aruba doesn't have the regulations and permission for Arubans to invest in the stock market. The reason he decided to open a branch of his American company instead of opening a local company, he said, is that the American market has stricter rules and regulations, and is therefore more controlled and safer. He is currently working with the Central Bank of Aruba to open the door for the local community to be able to invest in the stock market.

Griffin is planning more seminars for the general population for next year. The idea is to empower people with knowledge so they can begin planning to take control of their wealth. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 48 Stop

1 Use the tub

6 Titled women

11 Hunter in the stars

12 Cast out

13 Banana throw-aways

14 Door holder's words

15 Desert sight

17 Summit

18 Board cutters

22 Jai —

23 Shortage

27 Vampire features

29 Sleeping sound

30 Old Testament book

32 Radiance

33 Streetcars

35 Crude shack

38 Laddie

39 Suspect's story

41 Red, in France

45 Mumbai's nation

46 Debate topic

47 Synthetic fiber

DOWN

1 Jazz style

2 "Roses — red"

3 Even score

4 Have a firm grip on

5 Follow as a result

6 Edits out

7 Chopping tool

8 Catcher's need

9 Sailors' saint

10 Ooze

16 Homer's neighbor

18 Umpire's call

19 Weary word

20 Long for

21 Remain unruffled

24 Part to play

25 Hector's home

26 Cuts down

28 Belgrade native

31 Aussie hopper

34 Song bit

35 Locks

36 Arm bone

37 Orderly

40 Life story, for short

42 Much of N. Amer.

43 Astronaut

44 Wide shoe letters

F	R	A	T	S		A	P	A	R	T
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Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1						12				
3						14				
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39			40			41		42	43	44
45						46				
47						48				

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

JUZ ZIVE KUYUQ AXIK BIZ.

JUZ HTHEZ EIU OIYP

YUVLONHE, UXP HTHEZ KMXPIK

ICHX NI LEHUN CIQQMWMYMNZ.

— JUEZ UXXH EUPJUF0HE

Saturday's Cryptoquote: AS SOON AS I SAW YOU, I KNEW A GRAND ADVENTURE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. — A.A. MILNE, "WINNIE THE POOH"

Shoppers, workers clash over post-pandemic expectations

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Before the pandemic, Cheryl Woodard used to take her daughter and her friends to eat at a local IHOP in Laurel, Maryland after their dance practice. But now they hardly go there anymore because it closes too early.

"It is a little frustrating because it's not as convenient as it used to be," said Woodard, 54, who also does most of her shopping online these days instead of in person because of stores limiting their hours.

Before the pandemic, consumers had gotten accustomed to instant gratification: packages and groceries delivered to their doorstep in less than an hour, stores that stayed open around the clock to serve their every need.

But more than two and a half years later in a world yearning for normalcy, many workers are fed up and don't want to go back to the way things were. They are demanding better schedules, and sometimes even quitting their jobs altogether.

As a consequence, many businesses still haven't been able to resume the same hours of operations or services as they continue to grapple with labor shortages. Others have made changes in the name of efficiency. For instance, Walmart, the nation's largest retailer and private employer, announced this past summer it doesn't have any plans for its supercenters to return to its pre-pandemic 24-hour daily operations.

IHOP says a vast majority of its locations have returned



Signs advertise deals and low prices at a Walmart in Secaucus, N.J., Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

to their pre-pandemic hours and some have even expanded them. But others, like the Laurel location that Woodward used to frequent, have indeed cut back.

The changes are creating a disconnect between customers who want to shop and dine like they used to during pre-pandemic times and exhausted employees who no longer want to work those long hours — a push-pull that is only being heightened during the busy holiday shopping season. "Nobody is winning," said Sadie Cherney, a franchise owner with three resale Clothes Mentor boutiques in South Carolina. "It is so demoralizing to see that you are falling short on both ends."

Across all industries, the average number of hours worked per week per worker totaled 34.4 hours in November, unchanged from February 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But for the retail industry, it slipped 1.6% to 30.2 hours per week during the same period. Hours worked at restaurants were down by similar amount in October, according to the

most recent data.

Meanwhile, the National Restaurant Association's most recent monthly survey of 4,200 restaurant operators conducted in early August found that 60% of restaurants reduced hours of operation on the days they were open, while 38% closed on the days they would normally be open compared to right before the pandemic. And a report published by food and beverage research firm Dataessential showed the average U.S. restaurant as of October was open around six fewer hours per week than in 2019 — a 7.5% decline.

Cherney noted her stores returned to pre-pandemic hours last year but with the worsening labor shortages and higher labor costs, she has struggled to keep those same hours this year. Her store in Columbia is open one hour later, but she had to offer wage increases to her workers. For her two other locations in Greenville and Spartanburg, hours have been reduced for personal shopping appointments throughout the week, and no longer accept second-hand clothing from shoppers on Sundays.

Cherney noted customers often complain about long waits to process their second-hand offerings, while her staff is overextended because they're working 20% more than what they would like. The end result: Cash flow and profitability have both taken a hit. □

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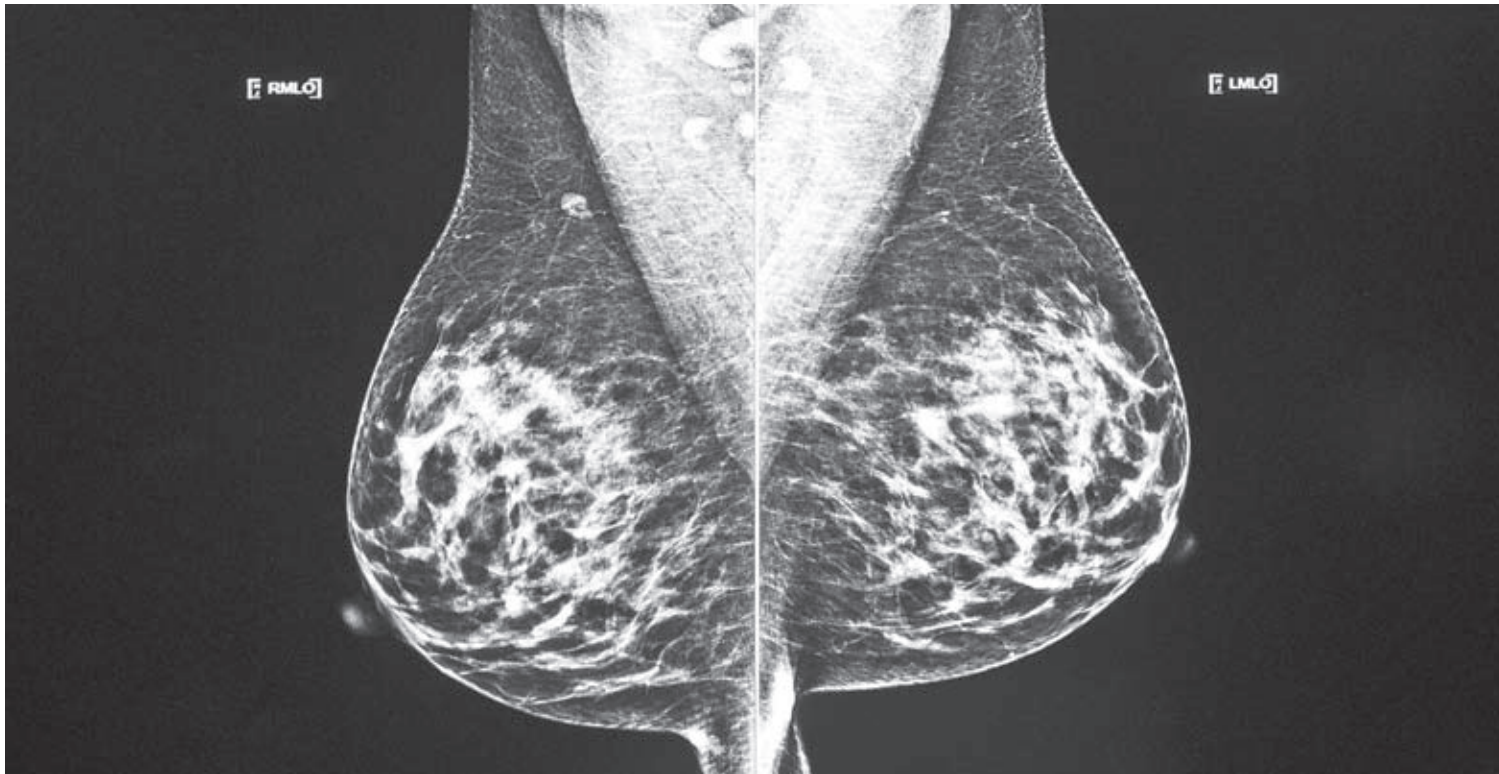
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24/7

More breast cancer patients can choose smaller surgery



A technician displays images of a mammogram scan on a computer screen at a hospital in Odessa, Texas, on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021.

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
AP Medical Writer

Many women with two or three breast tumors can get by with lumpectomy surgery instead of having their whole breast removed, a new study suggests.

In recent years, more patients with multiple tumors have been identified, a result of more sensitive imaging techniques that can reveal tiny, once-hidden cancers. That means more patients are being diagnosed with multiple cancer sites in the same breast. In the past, doctors would say these women needed mastectomies. Researchers wanted to know: Was this dogma still true?

They followed nearly 200 women with two or three tumors in one breast who had lumpectomies followed by radiation. The patients ranged in age from 40 to 87. To take part in the study, their tumors had to be less than 5 centimeters and separated by 2 to 3 centimeters of normal breast tissue.

After five years, just 3% saw cancer come back, similar to rates from previous lumpectomy studies in patients with only one tumor. The study, supported by the National Institutes of Health, was being discussed Friday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer

Symposium.

"This study caught my attention very quickly," said Dr. John Kiluk, a surgeon at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, who was not involved in the research. "It is definitely a step forward for our field." Lumpectomy's advantages include quicker recovery and, often, better cosmetic results.

No surgery guidelines existed for these patients, but some doctors already were offering lumpectomy as a choice, said Dr. Judy Boughey of Mayo Clinic, who led the research.

"This will make them more comfortable with that approach," Boughey said.

"And I think it will also make patients ask their surgeon, 'OK, I have two sites of disease. Do I have to have a mastectomy? Or can you give me breast conservation?'" The study did not randomly assign patients to lumpectomy or mastectomy. That would have yielded better data, but it would be nearly impossible to find women willing to be randomly assigned, Boughey said, making such an experiment impractical. In the study, the women who had an MRI before surgery did the best, suggesting MRI scans may help surgeons be more thorough at removing cancer.

The study is part of a larger

research movement aimed at avoiding overtreatment and unnecessary side effects by "right-sizing" cancer care, Boughey said.

"Do we have to throw the kitchen sink at everyone?" she asked. "Which patients need every single option that we have available and which will do just as well without having the kitchen sink thrown at them? Every single treatment has some kind of side effects." □

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Hurts, Eagles secure playoff spot, thump rival Giants 48-22

By The Associated Press
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP) — Jalen Hurts threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as the NFL-best Philadelphia Eagles punched their ticket to the playoffs with a 48-22 victory over the fading New York Giants on Sunday.

Hurts threw for 217 yards and hit DaVonta Smith on a 41-yard fourth-down TD strike and A.J. Brown on a 33-yarder as the Eagles (12-1) scored on their first three possessions. The third-year quarterback also ran for 77 yards, highlighted by a 10-yard TD scamper late in the third quarter.

Miles Sanders ran for 144 yards and scored on runs of 3 and 40 yards as the Eagles handed the Giants their worst loss under first-year coach Brian Daboll. Philadelphia secured its second straight postseason appearance and fifth in six seasons.

The Eagles finished with seven sacks, including three by Brandon Graham. Daniel Jones and Tyrod Taylor threw touchdown passes for the Giants (7-5-1). They have one win in their last six games (1-4-1) and their hopes of their first playoff berth since 2016 are slipping with four games remaining.

The Eagles, who have the league's second-ranked defense and third-ranked offense, dominated from the start. They sacked Jones twice on the opening series and Hurts then took over, driving them 84 and 91 yards for touchdowns.

LIONS 34, VIKINGS 23

DETROIT (AP) — Jared Goff threw for 330 yards and three touchdowns, leading surging Detroit past NFC North-leading Minnesota. The Vikings (10-3) needed a win or tie to clinch the division title. Kirk Cousins threw for 425 yards, including a franchise-record 223 to Justin Jefferson on 11 catches. But Dalvin Cook ran for just 23 yards on 15 carries, and Minnesota couldn't stop Goff. Detroit (6-7) has won five of six, its best stretch since its last postseason appearance in 2016.

Goff completed 27 of 39



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) is congratulated by wide receiver Quez Watkins (16) after scoring a touchdown against the New York Giants during the third quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

passes. He started the scoring with a 41-yard touchdown pass to Jameson Williams, his first catch since injuring his left knee 11 months ago playing for Alabama in the NCAA national championship game.

Goff threw a tiebreaking, 48-yard touchdown pass to DJ Chark, who finished with a season-high six catches and 94 yards. The QB gave Detroit a two-touchdown lead in the third quarter with a 5-yard pass to Josh Reynolds after coach Dan Campbell called a fake punt from his 26.

Cousins was 30-of-40 passing with touchdowns to K.J. Osborn and Adam Thielen.

BILLS 20, JETS 12

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Josh Allen threw a touchdown pass and ran for a score on consecutive possessions and Buffalo beat AFC East rival New York in wet, chilly and windy conditions. Allen's 24-yard touchdown pass to Dawson Knox in the closing minute of the second quarter led to Buffalo scoring on four consecutive drives, capped by a pair of field goals by Tyler Bass, including a 49-yarder.

The AFC-leading Bills (10-3) won their fourth straight since a two-game skid, which included a 20-17 loss at the Jets. Buffalo has won at least 10 of its first 13

games for the seventh time in franchise history.

The Jets (7-6) have lost four of six, a slump that has made their playoff chances shaky. New York hasn't qualified for the postseason since 2010.

New York was undone by having quarterback Mike White briefly sidelined twice by injuries to his ribs as well as a pair of turnovers in the second half. As a precaution, coach Robert Saleh said White was sent to a hospital after the game to be evaluated.

White finished 27 of 44 for 268 yards and no turnovers. Allen was 16 of 27 for a season-low 147 yards. More important, he didn't turn the ball over as he did twice in Buffalo's loss to the Jets last month.

JAGUARS 36, TITANS 22

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Trevor Lawrence threw for a career-high 368 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a score, and Jacksonville won at Tennessee for the first time since 2013. The Jaguars (5-8) snapped a five-game skid against their oldest division rival with just their second victory in this series in 11 games. Doug Pederson became the first Jacksonville coach to win in Nashville since Gus Bradley on Nov. 10, 2013.

Jacksonville had four sacks and turned four turnovers

into 20 points — three for 17 points in the first half. The Jaguars scored 29 straight points and have won two of three.

Jaguars tight end Evan Engram caught 11 passes for a career-high 162 yards and had two TD receptions. The Titans (7-6) lost their third straight, matching their longest skid since coach Mike Vrabel's opening season in 2018. Derrick Henry ran for 96 yards and a touchdown in the first quarter but didn't do much after that, finishing with 121 yards on 17 carries.

Ryan Tannehill threw a TD pass to Nick Westbrook-Ikhine and a 2-point conversion to Chig Okonkwo to pull Tennessee within 36-22. But the Titans turned it over on downs with 1:59 left, allowing the Jaguars to run out the clock.

COWBOYS 27, TEXANS 23

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Ezekiel Elliott scored the go-ahead touchdown with 41 seconds remaining and Dallas rallied to beat hapless Houston.

Houston (1-11-1) appeared in position to end a seven-game losing streak after Dak Prescott threw an interception inside the Dallas 10 with 5:37 to go and the Texans leading by three.

The Cowboys (10-3) stiffened against a makeshift Texans offense, stuffing

backup quarterback Jeff Driskel on a fourth-down run to give Prescott another shot starting just outside his own goal line.

The star quarterback delivered, starting with a 21-yard completion to Dalton Schultz from the 2. Later, an 18-yarder to Schultz put Dallas at the Houston 4. Elliott scored on third down from the 2 to cap the 98-yard, 11-play drive.

Tony Pollard scored twice for Dallas, which stayed two games behind Philadelphia in the NFC East.

After going back to Davis Mills as the starter following a two-game benching, the Texans threw in a wrinkle with Driskel offering a hybrid wildcat/throwing role that included his first TD pass since 2020.

BENGALS 23, BROWNS 10

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joe Burrow shook off a sloppy start to throw two touchdown passes and Cincinnati ended a five-game skid to its Ohio rival.

The Bengals (9-4) have won five straight and nine of 11 and remained tied for the AFC North lead with Baltimore. Burrow picked up his first win in five starts against the Browns (5-8), whose playoff hopes are now all but nonexistent.

Cleveland quarterback Deshaun Watson was sharper than in his debut with the team last week and threw his first touchdown pass in 707 days, a 13-yarder to David Njoku in the third quarter.

But Watson also threw an interception and two incompletions on fourth down in the fourth quarter. Watson finished 26 of 42 for 276 yards, and the Bengals bottled up Cleveland running backs Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt.

Burrow threw a 15-yard TD pass to Ja'Marr Chase and a 45-yard scoring pass on a flea-flicker to Trenton Irwin. Burrow was largely reliant on Chase after his other top receivers, Tyler Boyd and Tee Higgins, left the game with injuries. Chase had 10 receptions for 119 yards in his second game since missing a month with a hip fracture. □

Heisman 2023: Maye? Harrison Jr.? Who challenges Williams?

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

After Caleb Williams won the Heisman Trophy, becoming the eighth player to do so for Southern California, he talked about how cool it will be to have his jersey retired at the school one day and to be able to take his place with other USC greats.

"But as of right now, I got a game in three weeks or so and getting ready to prepare for them, and I got a whole 'nother year or two into a USC," Williams said. Barring some unforeseen circumstance, Williams will be the eighth Heisman Trophy winner since 2000 to play college football the following season.

None has come particularly close to winning another. Maybe Williams is the one to break the trend and become just the second two-time Heisman winner, joining Ohio State's Archie Griffin (1974-75).

Williams on Saturday night became the sixth sophomore to win the Heisman and the second in a row after Alabama's Bryce Young last year.

This season, Young was pretty great again. But he missed some time with an injury, didn't have the usual stable of star receivers afforded to Crimson Tide quarterbacks in recent years and ended up finishing sixth in the Heisman voting as Alabama went 10-2. Expect Young and two-time Heisman finalist C.J. Stroud of Ohio State to move on to the NFL next. TCU quarterback Max Duggan, the runner-up to Williams, might take advantage of a fifth year after a breakout senior season — though it will be difficult for Duggan and the Horned Frogs to recreate this magical season.

Who else will challenge Williams for the Heisman? Here are a few guesses:

Drake Maye, QB, North Carolina

There already is a debate among NFL draftniks about who will be the No. 1 overall pick in 2024: Williams or Maye? Could be

a great Heisman race between the two as well next season. Maye and the Tar Heels stumbled to the finish of this season, but he still ended the regular season second in the country in total offense at 367 yards per game.

Marvin Harrison Jr., WR, Ohio State

The Buckeyes likely will be breaking in a new quarterback next season, but Harrison should help make the transition relatively smooth. In his first season as a starter, the sophomore has caught 72 passes for 1,157 yards and 12 touchdowns. He probably would be a first-round draft pick in the next draft if he was eligible.

Donovan Edwards, RB, Michigan

Michigan seems to be

the one school capable of producing a Heisman contender at running back these days. Edwards showed late in the season he could be both a workhorse and a home-run hitter, stepping in for the injured Blake Corum with 401 yards on 47 carries against Ohio State and in the Big Ten title game.

Teammate quarterback J.J. McCarthy also could emerge as a Heisman contender, but Michigan loves its smash-mouth style. Michael Penix Jr., QB, Washington and Bo Nix, QB, Oregon

Quinn Ewers, QB, Texas

The highly touted former five-star recruit had a mediocre first season as the Longhorns' starter, throwing 14 touchdowns passes



Southern California quarterback Caleb Williams poses for photos after winning the Heisman Trophy, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

and six interceptions in nine games while completing 56.6% of his passes. Arch Manning, the nephew of Peyton and Eli Manning, arrives in Austin soon to push Ewers, who still has three

seasons of eligibility left. The idea that Ewers could take a huge step forward in Year 2 can't be dismissed. Same goes for Clemson's Cade Klubnik and Texas A&M's Conner Weigman. □

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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

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Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

